UNITED NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/25809
21 May 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE UNITED NATIONS DISENGAGEMENT OBSERVER FORCE

(for the period 20 November 1992 to 21 May 1993)

Introduction

1. The present report gives an account of the activities of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) in pursuance of the mandate entrusted to it by the Security Council in resolution 350 (1974) and extended by subsequent resolutions, most recently by resolution 790 (1992) of 25 November 1992.

Organization of the Force

2. As of May 1993, the composition of UNDOF was as follows:

Austria	453
Canada	180
Finland	356
Poland	135
	1 124
United Nations military observers (detailed from the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO))	5
	1 129

In addition to the above, UNDOF was assisted by UNTSO military observers assigned to the Israel-Syria Mixed Armistice Commission.

3. Major-General Roman Misztal of Poland continued as Force Commander.

4. The Government of Finland has informed me of its intention to withdraw its contingent by the end of the year. I am consulting with Governments about a replacement.

5. UNDOF is deployed within and close to the area of separation (see attached map), with base camps and logistic units located nearby. Most of the military component of UNDOF headquarters is in Camp Faouar and some elements are in Camp Ziouani. The civilian administrative staff is in Damascus. The Force Commander maintains offices both in Camp Faouar and in Damascus.

6. The Austrian battalion is deployed in the northern zone of UNDOF's area of operation. At present, it maintains 18 positions and 7 outposts, and conducts 26 daily patrols at irregular intervals on predetermined routes in the area of separation. Its base camp is in Camp Faouar, 8 kilometres east of the area of separation. The Finnish battalion is deployed in the southern zone. At present it maintains 16 positions and 6 outposts and conducts 19 daily patrols at irregular intervals in the area of separation. Its base camp is in Camp Ziouani, west of the area of separation.

7. The Polish logistic unit is stationed at Camp Faouar and the Canadian logistic unit at Camp Ziouani. Canadian signal personnel operate at both Camps Faouar and Ziouani. The military police has detachments at Camp Ziouani, Camp Faouar and Checkpoint C.

8. First-line logistic support is internal to the contingents. Second-line logistic support is provided by the Canadian and Polish logistic units. Third-line support is provided through normal supply channels by the United Nations. Damascus international airport serves as UNDOF's airhead; Tel Aviv international airport is also used. The seaports of Latakia, Ashdod and Haifa are used for sea shipments. In-theatre air support is provided by UNTSO on request.

9. During the period under review, one member of UNDOF died of natural causes. Since its inception, 32 members of UNDOF have died, 19 as a result of hostile action or accidents and 13 from other causes.

Activities of the Force

10. The functions and guidelines of UNDOF, as well as its tasks, were outlined in the Secretary-General's report of 27 November 1974. 1/ UNDOF continued, with the cooperation of the parties, to fulfil the tasks entrusted to it. To this end, the Force Commander and his staff maintained close contact with the military liaison staffs of Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic. Both sides continued to impose some restrictions on UNDOF's freedom of movement.

11. UNDOF continued to supervise the observance of the cease-fire between Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic. The cease-fire was maintained and the operational situation in UNDOF's area of operation remained calm.

12. UNDOF supervised the area of separation to ensure that no military forces were deployed in it. 2/ This was done by means of permanently manned positions and observation posts, and by foot and mobile patrols operating at irregular

intervals on predetermined routes by day and by night. In addition, temporary outposts were established and additional patrols were conducted from time to time as necessary. In the Wadi Ar Raqqad, new patrol paths were created in the area of separation which enable UNDOF to operate more easily in this difficult terrain. UNDOF continued its efforts, through frequent patrolling and the establishment of standing patrols, to prevent incidents involving Syrian shepherds who graze their flocks close to and west of the A-line.

13. The Syrian authorities have continued to lay mines and replace old ones in the area of separation along its eastern edge (see S/24821, para. 11).

14. UNDOF conducted fortnightly inspections of armament and force levels in the areas of limitation. Liaison officers from the party concerned accompanied the inspection teams. As in the past, both sides restricted the movement of inspection teams, denying access to some positions.

15. Mines still pose a threat to members of the Force and to the inhabitants in the area of separation. A member of a mine-clearing team sustained leg injuries in the course of his work. During the period under review, the Polish mine-clearing teams cleared a total area of 21,965 square metres. Eleven cluster bombs, three artillery shells, three hand grenades, two anti-aircraft shells and a quantity of small-arms ammunition were found and destroyed.

16. UNDOF assisted the International Committee of the Red Cross with facilities for mail and for the passage of persons through the area of separation. Within the means available, medical treatment was provided to the local population.

Financial aspects

17. By its resolution 47/204 of 22 December 1992, the General Assembly, inter alia, authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for UNDOF at a rate not to exceed $3,034,000 gross ($2,953,000 net) per month for the period from 1 June to 30 November 1993, inclusive, should the Security Council decide to continue the Force beyond the period of six months authorized under its resolution 790 (1992). Therefore, the cost to the United Nations will be within the aforementioned commitment authority. Appropriate financial provision will need to be made by the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session in respect of periods after 30 November 1993, should the Security Council decide to extend the mandate of the Force beyond that date. Unpaid assessments to the UNDOF special account as at 17 May 1993 amounted to some $20.8 million.

Implementation of Security Council resolution 338 (1973)

18. In deciding in its resolution 790 (1992) of 25 November 1992 to renew the mandate of UNDOF for a further period of six months, the Security Council also called upon the parties concerned to implement immediately its resolution 338 (1973) and requested the Secretary-General to submit, at the end of the period, a report on the developments in the situation and the measures taken to implement that resolution.

19. The search for a peaceful settlement in the Middle East and, in particular, the efforts undertaken at various levels to implement Security Council resolution 338 (1973) were dealt with in my report on the situation in the Middle East, 3/ submitted in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 46/82 A of 16 December 1991.

Observations

20. UNDOF, which was established in May 1974 to supervise the cease-fire called for by the Security Council and the Agreement on Disengagement between Israeli and Syrian forces of 31 May 1974, has continued to perform its functions effectively, with the cooperation of the parties. During the period under review, the situation in the Israel-Syria sector has remained generally quiet and there has been no serious incident.

21. Despite the present quiet in the Israel-Syria sector, the situation in the Middle East as a whole continues to be potentially dangerous and is likely to remain so, unless and until a comprehensive settlement covering all aspects of the Middle East problem can be reached. I continue to hope that determined efforts will be made by all concerned to tackle the problem in all its aspects, with a view to arriving at a just and durable peace settlement, as called for by the Security Council in its resolution 338 (1973).

22. In the prevailing circumstances, I consider the continued presence of UNDOF in the area to be essential. I therefore recommend that the Security Council extend the mandate of the Force for a further period of six months, until 30 November 1993. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic has given its assent to the proposed extension. The Government of Israel has also expressed its agreement.

23. In conclusion, I wish to express my appreciation to the Governments contributing troops to UNDOF and to those that provide UNTSO military observers assigned to the Force. I take this opportunity to pay tribute to Major-General Roman Misztal and to the men and women under his command. They have performed with efficiency and devotion to duty the important tasks assigned to them by the Security Council.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the Security Council, Twenty-ninth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1974, document S/11563, paras. 8-10.

2/ Ibid., Supplement for April, May and June 1974, document S/11302 and Add.1 and 2.

3/ A/47/672-S/24819.

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Al Asbah
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Boutmiye
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Joukhadar
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85A
Khisfine
Ain Ziouani
Kourbine
Majdel Chams
Massada
Hafra
Amret al Faouar
Chebaa
Arha
Baytima
Hi'e
Beit Jinn
Mazraat Beit Jinn
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Kafer Nefakh
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